



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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"I have not yet begun to fight!"



CLINTON EAGER TO DO BUSINESS WITH PUTIN

By Michael R. Gordon

When acting President Vladimir Putin met behind closed doors last month with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright he made an unusual appeal that Russia be considered a member of the Western club. Putin said that he liked to eat Chinese food, knew how to use chopsticks and regularly practiced judo. "But that's exotic stuff," Putin said. "That's not our mentality. Our mentality is European." The Clinton administration has a lot riding on a Putin election victory, and has been heartened by his remarks about the need to integrate Russia with the West.

On economics, Putin has signaled that he wants to establish the foundations of a modern capitalist state. He understands that Russia must attract foreign investment and overhaul its industries to become a world power. To this end, Putin has talked about overhauling the tax code, protecting the rights of shareholders, phasing out subsidies to money-losing enterprises and tackling politically dicey issues like establishing the right to own land. Economics, however, is just one part of the agenda. Arms control and foreign policy are also important. And while President Clinton has said Putin is someone "we can do business with," Putin's nationalism, his background as a KGB officer and his domestic constituency may make him less coop-

erative than Washington would like. The Russian military, for example, is strongly opposed to Washington's proposed anti-missile program. And though Putin recently restored ties with NATO, the political climate in Russia is not conducive to wrenching compromises with the West. Even with the best of intentions a strategic alliance between the United States and Russia remains a remote possibility. Putin is not only likely to re-energize relations with the West he is likely to intensify diplomacy with the former Soviet republics, Iran and China.

BRINGING ON SUPPLIES



The ship used its sideport cranes to take on supplies while anchored off Bahrain. (Photo by JO1(SW) Robert W. Garnand.)

NATIONAL NEWS

MR. GORE PLEDGES TO OVERHAUL *By Katharine Q. Seelye*

Vice President Al Gore, acknowledging himself to be an imperfect messenger on the subject of campaign finance, plans to propose a major change in federal campaign financing and will pledge to make the overhaul of the system his top domestic legislative priority. Mr. Gore's proposal calls for establishing an endowment fund from donations by individuals, corporations and labor unions, among others, to raise \$7.1 billion over seven years. The interest from the fund would be used to pay for the general election campaigns, starting in 2008, of candidates for the House and Senate, but only if they did not accept money from any other source.

Vice President Gore advisers say the amount of money would be based on a combination of factors, including the cost of previous House and Senate elections, and for Sen-

ate races, population and media accessibility in each state. The incentive for corporations, labor unions and other contributors to give to the fund would be a 100 percent tax deduction for their donations. At first, the endowment plan would not include presidential campaigns. General elections are already financed partly by taxpayers through the federal tax check-off system.

LOTT SUGGESTS GAS TAX HOLIDAY

By Reuters

The Senate may vote on a plan to temporarily repeal the federal gasoline tax of 18.4 cents a gallon if prices exceed \$2 a gallon, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said Sunday. "We need to find some short-term help, and I think the gas tax holiday, without it affecting the highway trust fund, would be a good idea," he said.

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Rye, Public Affairs Officer

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WEDNESDAY'S STE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1100 INNOCENT SLEEP

1630 RUSH HOUR

1800 REBOUND: LEGEND EARL
MANIGAULT

2000 THE LONG RIDER

CHANNEL 6

1100 KISSING A FOOL

1630 48 HOURS

1800 THE UNTOUCHABLES

2000 LIVING OUT LOUD

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

In conjunction with the Fiscal Year 2000 National Health Information Center observance of National Nutrition Month, March's health promotion message addresses nutrition and dietary performance. The intent of this message is to increase awareness of the importance of a sound and balanced diet, and its impact on military performance.

National Nutrition Month is a nutrition education and information campaign sponsored annually by the American Dietetic Association. The slogan for 2000, "Food & Fitness: Health for a Lifetime" reinforces the importance of nutrition and physical activity as key components of healthy lifestyles. The slogan communicates the flexibility of nutrition recommendations, dietary guidelines, and the use of the food guide pyramid as the framework for daily food choices that can be personalized to each individual's food preferences, nutritional needs, health status, and lifestyle.

The United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services have produced "Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2000". These guidelines provide a platform for telling all Americans that healthy eating and physical activity are key to a healthy, productive, energetic life.

The basic healthy guidelines for building a healthy life are:

- let the food guide pyramid guide your food choices
- eat a variety of grains, especially whole grains, daily
- eat a variety of fruits and vegetables daily
- choose a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol
- choose beverages that limit your intake of sugars
- use less salt with your food
- if you drink alcoholic beverages, exercise moderation

By following these nutritional guidelines, Marines and Sailors can promote health and reduce the risk for chronic diseases such as heart disease, certain cancers, or diabetes. These diseases are the leading causes of death and disability among Americans.

BIOTECHNOLOGY PROTESTORS MARCH THROUGH BOSTON *By New York Times*

In what organizers called the largest U.S. demonstration against genetically engineered food, more than 1,500 protesters marched through downtown Boston Sunday and ended up outside Bio2000, a major biotechnology industry convention, where they pointed their fingers at the suited scientists watching from the windows and shouted, "Shame on you!" In a pre-emptive salvo, about 2,000 scientists from around the world signed a "Declaration in Support of Agricultural Biotechnology."

OSCARS

'AMERICAN BEAUTY' WINS TOP OSCAR

By Rick Lyman

"American Beauty" took home five Oscars, including best picture. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences could hardly restrain itself from tossing rose petals at the bayonet-edged comedy about a pair of the most dysfunctional suburban households in movie history. Kevin Spacey won the best actor award as the film's narrator, a lovesick 40-something going through his painful second adolescence.

Sam Mendes won the director's prize for his first film, while Alan Ball won the original screenplay award for his first produced film. Conrad Hall won his second Oscar (his first, 31 years ago, was for "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"). Not a bad evening for DreamWorks, the mini-studio formed by Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen that made "American Beauty" and was having its best Oscar night ever.

Hilary Swank, 25 won the award for best actress for playing a young woman who pretended to be a man in the independent film "Boys Don't Cry." "The Cider House Rules," an adaptation by the director Lasse Hallstrom of John Irving's novel about the residents of a Maine orphanage, won awards for Michael Caine's supporting performance (his second Oscar) and for Irving's adapted screenplay.

"The Matrix" was popular in the less heralded categories, winning for best film editing, best sound, best sound effects editing and best visual effects. Angelina Jolie, who played an ostentatiously rebellious mental patient in "Girl, Interrupted," won the award for best supporting actress.

SPORTS

LAKERS EDGE SACRAMENTO KINGS

By Associated Press

Shaquille O'Neal swished a free throw to complete a three-point play with 6.5 seconds left and then blocked a shot by Sacramento's Vlade Divac as Los Angeles beat Sacramento 90-89. It was the Lakers' sixth straight victory and their 25th in the last 26 games.

OTHER NBA SCORES:

Philadelphia 111	Indiana 101
Orlando 94	Miami 69
Denver 112	New Jersey 110
Houston 123	Chicago 78
Milwaukee 99	Boston 84
Minnesota 106	Toronto 101

FLYERS CLOSE IN ON N. J. DEVILS

By New York Times

Keith Primeau scored a powerplay goal late in the second period as the Philadelphia Flyers defeated the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-1 Sunday. Pittsburgh played most of the game without Jaromir Jagr, who left with a bruised back after getting checked from behind by Dan McGillis. The Flyers moved within two points of Eastern Conference-leading New Jersey.

OTHER NHL SCORES:

Detroit 8	N.Y. Rangers 2
St. Louis 1	Chicago 1
Colorado 2	Dallas 1
Carolina 4	N.Y. Islanders 1
Montreal 3	Tampa Bay 1
Los Angeles 4	Atlanta 1